

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

41-396

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

I have found it necessary to disapprove Senate Bill 313.

Introduced apparently as a local bill, it has been found that the provisions of the measure are such that they will affect 68 counties in 25 Senatorial Districts. There has been widespread protest of the bill.

(The bill authorizes the creation of public hospital districts by the Commissioners Courts; the issuance of bonds and the levying of a tax for the payment thereof; the method of building and maintaining these hospitals.)

These districts may be formed when the assessed valuation of all property in such district shall exceed Fifteen Million Dollars. Districts could be created in counties having less than 60,000 population.

(The bill authorizes bonds to be issued to the extent of ten per cent of the total assessed valuation. This makes it possible for approximately \$190,000,000 in bonds to be issued. In addition, it authorizes a tax rate of five per cent of the total assessed valuation each year, thereby making it possible for these counties to assess and collect approximately \$95,000,000 per year.

The total amount of bonds authorized is 37 per cent of the total indebtedness of all the local subdivisions of government.

I am sure that it was not the intent of the Legislature to permit any such huge increase in the indebtedness of local government.

The limitations as to population and assessed valuations in no manner take into consideration the needs of the people for hospital facilities. It is probable that many counties really needing hospital facilities could not qualify.)

Section 33 provides that: "All Public Hospital Districts organized under the provisions of this Act shall have the power: (a) To construct, condemn and purchase, purchase and acquire, lease, add to, maintain, operate, develop and regulate, sell and convey all lands, property, property rights, equipment, hospital facilities and systems for the maintenance of hospital buildings, structures and any or all other facilities, and to exercise the right of eminent domain to effectuate the foregoing purposes"...excepting only such "power of condemnation against any hospital, clinic or sanatorium operated as a charitable, non-profit establishment or against a hospital, clinic, or sanatorium operated by a religious group or organization." This provision makes possible by a vote of the public hospital district under this bill to condemn and acquire privately owned and operated hospitals. This permits the exercise of a governmental agency to condemn and acquire an institution of private enterprise. This provision within itself is vicious enough to justify a veto of this bill.